West Nile Virus Newsletter

Zoonotic Disease Program, Washington State Department of Health

March 22, 2006 Volume 4, Issue 1

Purpose

To keep our partners and other interested entities informed about West Nile virus (WNV)

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National, northwest, and state surveillance

View the November 30, 2005 WNV Newsletter

Washington's 2005 West Nile virus data summary

Humans

- No indigenously acquired infections were detected in Washington State.

Equines

- One horse tested positive. A total of 54 horses were tested.

Birds

- One black-billed magpie tested positive. A total of 660 dead birds were tested.
- 576 sera from sentinel chickens tested negative for WNV. However, one chicken tested positive for St. Louis encephalitis.

Mosquitoes

- 1,637 mosquito trapping events collected 128,444 mosquitoes for identification to detect potential vectors and better understand mosquito populations.
- Two mosquito pools tested positive. A total of 915 pools were tested.

The detailed biennial report, "2004-2005 West Nile Virus Surveillance in Washington" is scheduled to be released this May.

Gearing up for the season – trainings and workshops

Northwest Mosquito & Vector Control Association – Spring Workshop 2006
Audience: Mosquito control districts, public health, municipalities, pest control
Date: March 30-31 Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Kennewick Fee: Yes
Contact: Kevin Shoemaker (509) 967-2414 or kevin@mosquitocontrol.org

Public Health – Seattle & King County West Nile Virus Training
Audience: King County municipalities and WNV partners
Date: April 25 (tentative) Location: Eastgate Public Health Center, Bellevue
Contact: Leah Helms (206) 296-3998 or leah.helms@metrokc.gov

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department West Nile Virus Training
Audience: Pierce County municipalities and WNV partners
Date: Early May Location: Lakewood City Hall or TPCHD
Contact: Nedda Turner (253) 798-6462 or nturner@tpchd.org

Need Mosquito Surveillance Training?
If you are with a local health jurisdiction, municipality, or another group that is interested in conducting mosquito surveillance, DOH may be able to schedule a training session near you.
Contact: Jo Marie Brauner (360) 236-3064 or jomarie.brauner@doh.wa.gov

Subscribe, Submit Articles, Suggestions

Contact Ben Hamilton
benjamin.hamilton@doh.wa.gov

Web Resources

Washington State Department of Health
www.doh.wa.gov/wnv

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile

US Geological Survey & CDC ArboNET maps
http://westnilemaps.usgs.gov/index.html

Washington State University Cooperative Extension
www.wnv.wsu.edu

Washington State Department of Agriculture
www.agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/Diseases/WestNileVirus/default.htm

Northwest Links

Idaho Department of Health & Welfare
www.westnile.idaho.gov

Oregon Department of Human Services
http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/acd/diseases/wnile/survey.shtml

British Columbia Center for Disease Control
www.bccdc.org

Licensing and Educational Training for Applicators
Washington State Department of Agriculture Licensing and Education
http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/LicensingEd/default.htm
Washington State University Extension Pesticide Education Program
http://pep.wsu.edu/Education/educ.html

Presentations from the National Conference on WNV

The slide presentations from the Seventh National Conference on West Nile Virus in the United States have been posted at the CDC's West Nile Virus Web Page at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/conf/February_2006.htm.

Additional presentations will be posted as they become available.

West Nile's spread linked to robin's migration

By David Malakoff, National Public Radio, All Things Considered, March 12, 2006

A new study suggests red-breasted robins may play a key role in the spread of West Nile virus. Mosquitoes that spread the virus appear to prefer meals of robins' blood in the summer, then switch to humans in the fall when the birds head south.

Listen to the NPR radio piece at http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5258996.

West Nile virus poses little pregnancy risk

Associated Press except from MSNBC.com, March 6, 2006

Pregnant women who get West Nile virus likely will have normal babies, although a small risk of birth defects can't be completely ruled out, according to the first published report from a multi-state registry.

Researchers at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention called their report "somewhat reassuring" but said pregnant women still should be especially careful to follow precautions, including staying indoors when mosquito activity is high and wearing repellent during mosquito season.

Of 72 infants in 16 states whose mothers had West Nile during pregnancy, only three had problems that might have been linked with exposure to the virus before birth, according to 2003-2004 data from the registry.

None of the infants studied "had conclusive laboratory evidence" of developing West Nile virus infection from their mothers, although scientists are uncertain how effective current tests are at detecting West Nile infection at birth.

View the report, published in the Journal of American Academy of Pediatrics, at http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/117/3/e537.

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1-866-78VIRUS

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Horse Surveillance
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Aquatic Mosquito Control NPDES Permit
Ben Hamilton
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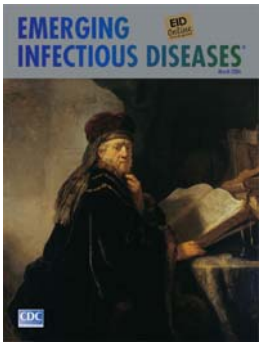
Journal articles

CDC, Emerging Infectious Diseases, Volume 12, Number 3 – March Issue



Cost-effectiveness of West Nile Virus Vaccination, A. Zohrabian et al.
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol12no03/05-0782.htm

West Nile Virus Infections Projected from Blood Donor Screening Data, United States, 2003, M.P. Busch et al.
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol12no03/05-1287.htm

Host Feeding Patterns of *Culex* Mosquitoes and West Nile Virus Transmission, Northeastern United States, G. Molaei et al. http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol12no03/05-1004.htm

West Nile Virus–associated Flaccid Paralysis Outcome, J.J. Sejvar et al.
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol12no03/05-0643.htm

Mutation that protects against HIV infection may raise risk of West Nile virus illness

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, News Release, January 17, 2006

People who lack a cell surface protein called CCR5 are highly resistant to infection by HIV but may be at increased risk of developing WNV illness when exposed to the mosquito-borne virus, report researchers from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The findings may have cautionary implications for physicians who are treating HIV-positive individuals with experimental CCR5-blocking drugs, say the scientists.

"This is the first genetic risk factor to be identified for West Nile virus infection," says NIH Director Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D.

View the complete National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases news release at http://www3.niaid.nih.gov/news/newsreleases/2006/ccr5.htm.

FDA approves test to screen West Nile virus in donors of blood, organs, cells, and tissues

U.S. Food and Drug Administration, News Release, December 1, 2005

FDA has approved the first WNV blood test to screen donors of blood, organs, cells and tissues. The Procleix WNV Assay detects viral genetic material (ribonucleic acid or RNA). This new test will help protect patients who receive blood and other such products against West Nile infection. To date, there have been 30 documented cases of people who most likely acquired WNV from a blood transfusion, including nine who died.

View the entire FDA news release at
http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2005/NEW01266.html.